



INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics —

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CHILD CARE, MAY 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1977, 40 per cent of persons responsible for children under 12 years of age were in the labour force (14,100 males, 612,400 females).
- Of the 386,000 persons who worked away from home and who were responsible for school children under 12 years of age:
 - one in two worked only during school hours or while their spouse looked after the children
 - about nine per cent reported that they made no after-school care arrangements for about 58,000 children.
- 227,900 children under 12 years of age not attending school were the responsibility of persons who worked away from home.

Of these :

- 42 per cent were looked after at home by the responsible person's spouse or some other person,
- 34 per cent were being cared for in other persons' homes,
- 16 per cent attended kindergartens, pre-schools, child care centres, etc.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In May 1977 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about child care arrangements of persons who were responsible for children under twelve years of age. Information obtained from persons who were employed included the type of child care arrangements they made for their children (including after-school care and school holiday care), time of departure for work and arrival home, the usual daily period of absence from home and the cost of child care arrangements. For persons who were looking for

work and others who would have liked to have a job but were not looking for one because of child care problems, the information collected related to the care arrangements they would have preferred if they had had a job. The results of similar surveys conducted in May 1969 and May 1973 were published in bulletins entitled *Child Care* (Reference No. 17.2).

2. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

The population survey

3. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These four survey weeks are chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Scope

4. Questions for the child care survey were not asked of persons under 15 years of age, persons aged 65 years and over, visitors in private dwellings, persons in non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and persons in institutions, members of the permanent defence forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

5. Persons who worked at home and who were responsible for the care of children under twelve years of age were not asked questions about their child care arrangements. It is estimated that there were about 95,000 persons (94,000 females) in this category, of whom about 57,000 were responsible for some children who were not attending school.

6. The *person responsible* for the care of a child under twelve years of age was defined as the person who, being a member of the household to which the child belonged, ranked highest in the following three categories.

- (a) Child's mother, step-mother, foster mother, female guardian
- (b) Child's father, step-father, foster father, male guardian
- (c) Any other person considered by the respondent as being responsible for the child.

7. For the purposes of the survey —

- . *child care centre at work* comprises care centres, creches and nursery facilities at the place of work run either by the employer or by employees on a co-operative basis.
- . *kindergarten, pre-school, child care centre* comprises centres or institutions established for the care of children, regardless of whether they were government-operated, operated by voluntary groups or run as commercial ventures, except co-operative/neighbourhood groups (even if run with some government financial support) in which the children were minded at the home of one of the members, and kindergartens or pre-schools incorporated into primary schools.
- . *looked after by spouse* includes situations where persons responsible for the children worked different hours from those of their spouse.
- . *at home with another person* includes situations where the children were minded by persons living in the same household (other than a parent or brothers or sisters aged 12 years and over).
- . *in another person's home* includes co-operative groups where a number of persons shared the minding of their children at the home of one of the members.
- . *school* includes kindergartens and pre-schools incorporated into primary schools.

8. Definitions of labour force categories used in this statement are the same as those used in the quarterly labour force survey, which are set out in the bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Reliability of the estimates

9. Since the estimates in this statement are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 20 per cent have not been shown, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although in some cases figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Related publications

10. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- . *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20)
- . *Persons Not in The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.59)

11. An up-to-date list of population survey reports is given in *The Labour Force* each quarter.

12. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.
- .. Not applicable.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

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Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PERSONS (a) RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE,
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN, MAY 1977 (b)
('000)

Number of children under 12 years of age	In the labour force			Not in the labour force	Total
	Employed	Unemployed	Total		
One	261.1	19.7	280.8	333.9	614.6
Two	227.0	22.6	249.6	378.0	627.6
Three or more	89.5	6.6	96.1	216.4	312.5
Total	577.6	48.9	(c)626.5	928.2	1,554.8

(a) Persons aged 15 to 64 years. See page 1, paragraph 4. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6. (c) Comprises 14,100 males, 581,600 married women and 30,900 other females.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 2. PERSONS (a) IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN
UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE, BY NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN, MAY 1977 (b)
('000)

	Responsible for children under 6 years of age				Not responsible for any children under 6	Total
	One child under 6	Two children under 6	Three or more children under 6	Total		
Responsible for children aged 6-11 -						
One child	81.9	16.6	*	100.0	175.9	275.9
Two children	35.4	4.8	*	40.3	103.2	143.5
Three or more children	7.0	*	*	9.2	20.5	29.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>124.3</i>	<i>23.0</i>	*	<i>149.6</i>	<i>299.6</i>	<i>449.1</i>
Not responsible for any children aged 6-11						
	104.9	64.5	8.0	177.4	..	177.4
Total	229.2	87.5	10.3	327.0	299.6	626.5

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL,
BY USUAL DAILY PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM HOME, MAY 1977 (b)

Usual daily period of absence from home (hours)	Number ('000)	Usual daily period of absence from home (hours)	Number ('000)
Under 5	26.6	10 and over	30.4
5 and under 8	35.2	Varied daily	36.3
8 " " 9	22.3		
9 " " 10	39.0	Total	189.9

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. Excludes persons who worked at home. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6.

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE,
BY AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, MAY 1977 (b)
('000)

Type of after-school arrangement	Persons responsible for -			Person responsible worked -		Total persons responsible
	One school child (c)	Two school children (c)	Three or more school children (c)	Full time	Part time	
Person responsible worked only during school hours	52.9	39.8	11.0	18.3	85.4	103.7
Looked after by spouse	50.2	29.6	10.6	38.5	51.8	90.4
At home with older children (d)	38.0	9.2	*	34.0	14.9	48.9
At home with another person	19.6	13.7	*	26.1	10.7	36.8
In another person's home	38.4	16.7	*	39.1	19.8	58.9
Other arrangements	7.6	*	*	7.0	5.4	12.4
No arrangements	15.5	15.8	*	21.7	13.2	34.9
Total	222.1	128.8	35.1	184.8	201.2	386.0

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. Excludes persons who worked at home. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6. (c) Under 12 years of age. (d) Aged 12 years or over.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE,
BY HOLIDAY CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, MAY 1977 (b)
('000)

Type of holiday arrangement	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (c)
Usual working arrangements allow person responsible or spouse to look after children	41.5	38.0	16.4	15.9	12.7	4.9	131.5
Person responsible or spouse alters usual working arrangements or resigns to look after children	22.3	22.9	6.1	5.2	5.1	1.6	65.8
At home with older children (d)	14.0	14.0	3.7	5.2	4.2	*	42.6
At home with another person	16.5	13.7	4.5	3.4	3.0	*	43.3
In another person's home	24.2	17.7	10.5	7.0	5.6	2.6	69.0
Other arrangements	*	5.0	3.0	2.6	*	*	17.4
No arrangements	5.4	5.7	*	*	2.2	*	16.4
Total	127.6	117.0	45.4	40.4	34.7	11.6	386.0

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. Excludes persons who worked at home. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Aged 12 years or over.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 6. CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL WHO WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF
EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY TYPE OF CARE ARRANGEMENTS AND USUAL DAILY PERIOD
OF ABSENCE OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON FROM HOME, MAY 1977 (b)
('000)

Type of care arrangement	Usual daily period of absence of responsible person (hours)						Total
	Under 5	5 and under 8	8 and under 9	9 and under 10	10 and over	Varied daily	
Looked after by spouse	16.3	10.5	7.7	9.6	6.9	14.6	65.5
At home with another person (c)	4.2	*	4.0	7.1	5.6	6.2	30.0
Kindergarten, pre-school, child care centre	4.4	9.4	4.7	8.1	6.2	4.2	37.1
In another person's home	6.0	15.0	9.3	20.2	15.2	12.3	78.0
Other arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	5.0	15.0
Total (d)	33.2	42.0	27.2	46.8	35.4	43.4	227.9

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. Excludes children of persons who worked at home. (b) For definition of "person responsible" see page 2, paragraph 6. (c) Includes brothers and sisters aged 12 years or over. (d) Includes a small number of children for whom no arrangements were reported.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.